1903

Sub

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of the Faversham Urban District Council

drainage

In 1893 Professor Corfield made a report upon the drainage arrangements of Faversham after a very severe Epidemic of Diphtheria (over twenty deaths occuring) pointing out that "the drainage discharged into the river — "that discharging into the river on the north of the Railway, where there is a Public foot path, being Sickeningly foul & Emitting a very bad odour."
"The house drains discharging into the river further down" he says "form pools of filthy water, the bed of the river being lined everywhere with foul mud".
"At the bridge over the river, leading to the Church the water discharges into an almost Stagnant pool" — Although this report of Professor Corfields has been published 10 years ago the arrangements are in no wise mended! and with the more Sewage being emptied into the river the State of the river is infinite[ly] worse and the Stagnant pool at the Church Bridge is, in hot weather, a disgrace to Civilisation.

water supply

As regards the Water Supply Professor Corfield pointed out that "it was from Surface Wells & these often very near to the Cesspools". Continuing he says "I am satisfied from my inspection that the Soil of the town [illegible]

Water Supply (cont)

the whole of the drinking water is derived, is largely polluted by the numerous cesspools & it is obvious to Everyone that the water is in an Extremely foul & unwholesome Condition"
The general water Supply of the town, (with the Exception of 3 private bored wells) Continues the Same. Last year in my report I pointed out the dangers of pollution & in the North End of the town there are Five wells which have been privately quantitatively Analysed & Condemned A Seventh well, in which we had direct proof that the Cesspool leaked into it on account of an old pipe being blocked — On the top of all this the water from the Town Pump which Prof: Corfield regarded with great Suspicion has been quantitatively analysed & pronounced "unfit for Drinking Purposes".

Board Schools

One is pleased to be able to state that the water at the Board School upon quantitative Analysis has reported "that it might be looked upon as a water fit for drinking Purposes" — but one fails to see how the majority of the wells in the lower part of the town can be looked upon with anything but very grave Suspicion owing to the danger of pollution which of course increases with Every year & as the Shallow wells in the North End of the town have given Such bad results upon quantitative Analysis and as the run of the water is from North to South one fails to see how one can possibly Expect better results from those wells which are Situated in the more densely inhabited part of the town which lie South of those wells which have been Condemned.

So far the Only Steps taken to Remedy these arrangements have been 2 Sets of Plans which were duly passed & Sanctioned by the Local Government Board & were ultimately rejected by the Council & No Steps as regards Drainage or Water Supply have been put into Operation Since Prof. Corfield's visit of 1893: and although our Death Rate for the year is low (10.25) there is no reason why with Such unsatisfactory Drainage & drinking water arrangements that at any rate we might have a greatly increased rate.

The Churchyard is rapidly becoming filled and no fresh land has been added.

Provision was made for an Isolation Hospital in Case of Small Pox appearing

Chicken Pox was added to the Notifiable Diseases for a period of 12 months.

9 Cases of Diphtheria - 4 of Scarlet Fever 7 of Chicken Pox were reported during 1902.

Birth Rate 21.87

Death Rate 10.75

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